

GAY & LESBIAN MAGAZINE

CONTACTS 接觸

雜誌 *magazine*

V. 4 no. 8

November-December '96

\$35.00

ONE WORLD
BY ONE

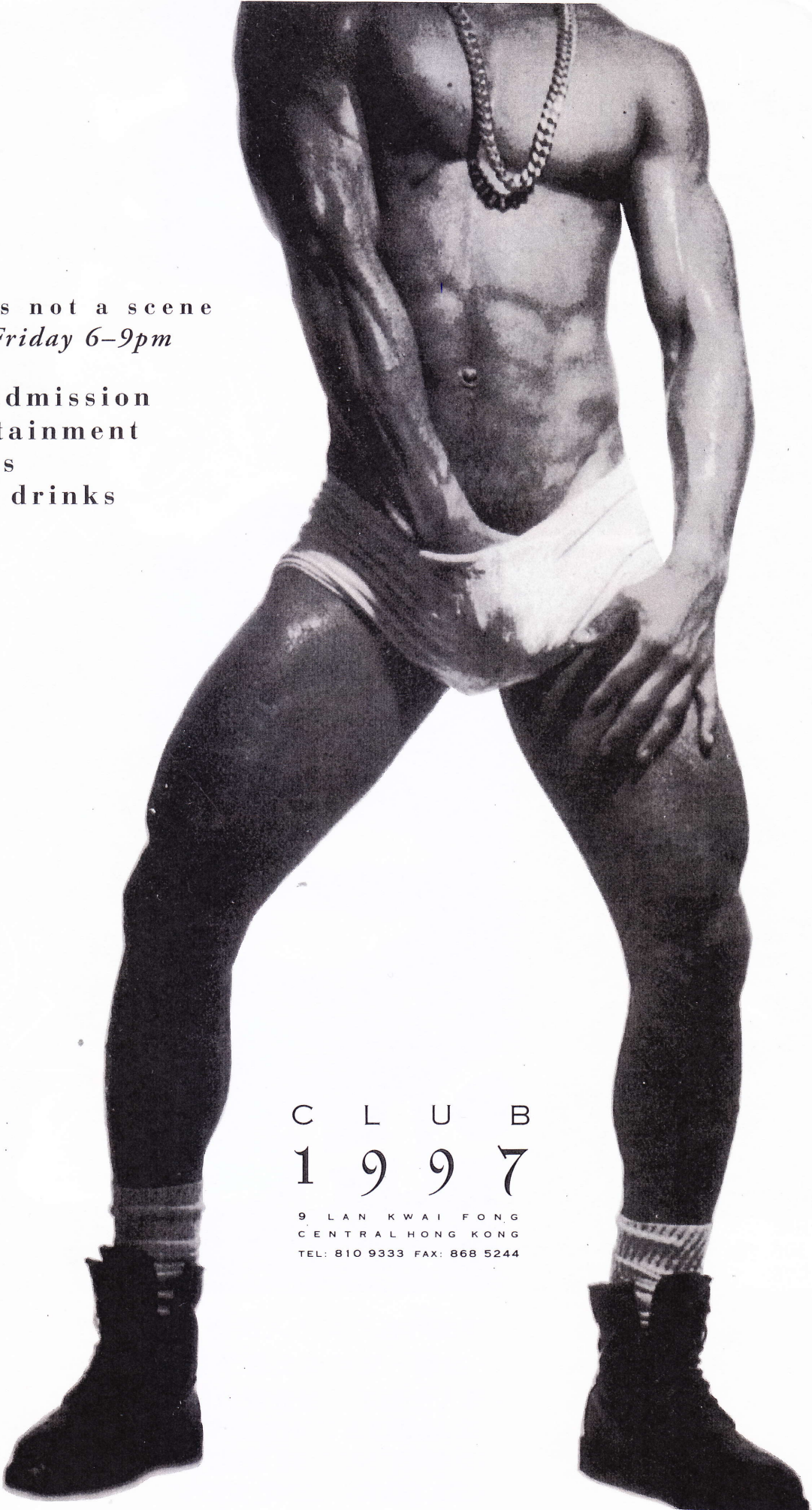
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AIDS

That this issue has a number of articles on AIDS and programmes for prevention, remembrance and education, is something for which we make no apology.

Official figures recently released show that almost half the people infected with HIV claim to be hetties. And that according to AIDS agencies shows that they are more at risk than Gay people.

Maths is certainly not our strong point but it seems to us that someone has got their sums wrong here. What's more a lot of so-called professionals seem happy to perpetuate the myth.

If almost 50% of those infected with HIV are Gay, and Gays are 10% of the population, it seems to us that the logical conclusion is that Gay people are at far greater risk than hetties. But that can't be right. Because if it was that would surely mean that meaningful resources from the AIDS agencies would be directed towards the Gay community.

And before anyone reaches for the phone to chastise us let's explain what we mean by meaningful resources. What we'd like to see is a worthwhile education and outreach programme aimed directly at the Gay community. This requires commitment and understanding of the issues involved and empathy with Gay people.

We're sorry to say it means more than handing out a few condoms (those are supplied free to the AIDS agencies, by a generous manufacturer) on a Friday night in Lan Kwai Fong.

It means understanding that Gay people are everywhere in every profession and at every level. Including cross-border drivers. Why do the odious repetitive surveys ignore the fact that some drivers must, by the law of averages, be Gay? If questions regarding sexual orientation were asked then the agencies just might have to do something about educating the masses of Gay people around Hong Kong.

We are so thankful that we are not paranoid otherwise we'd think there was a conspiracy NOT to promote safer sex and education among the Gay community.

Volume 4 No.8

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雜誌 *magazine*

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November/December '96

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One World, One Hope

World AIDS Day

BOOKS REGISTRATION ORDINANCE
CAP 142

Number: HK - 1996

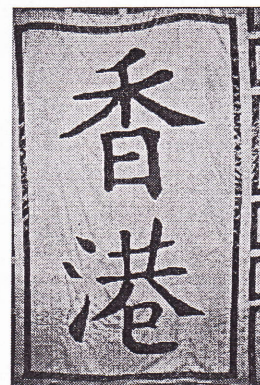
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Don't Miss This!



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Editor: Barrie Brandon **Design & Layout:** Thomas Choi **News & Features:** Danny Wong, Jason Leung **Advertising & Subscriptions:** Tony Ng **Contacts Magazine** printed by Island Publishing Company Ltd., Hong Kong GPO Box 13427, Hong Kong.

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生

當我看到自己的身軀時，我沒有太大的恐懼，我知道這是我應得的結局。

但我唯一感到遺憾的是令到我的親人傷心，由其是我的媽媽，自小她便對我十分之疼愛，我要什麼她都會買給我。爸爸還因為這樣常常罵她，慈母多敗兒，但他說的時候是高興的，縱使媽媽知道還是說，我們不疼他愛他還有誰疼他，但如今我竟然會令他們傷心，我真的不忍。

醫務人員還盡最後努力搶救我這個殘缺的身軀，但我已對它沒有半點留戀之情，縱使母親是這樣的傷心，我也不會回去，因為我怕有一天我會帶給他們更大的傷害。

媽媽請原諒我這個自私的不孝子吧！十分多鐘後醫生終於宣佈我的死亡時間是晚上七時十八分。

他望著母親沒發一言半句，便默默離開。這個房間突然間變得死寂。

母親沒有哭，她握著我的手，把面貼上去，我真的不知道為何她要受到這個罰，她是沒有罪的，有罪的是我，我應該承受所有的痛苦，但為何不是我而是我深愛的母親。母親呀請讓孩兒對你說聲對不起！但她聽到嗎？

她沒有哭泣，但眼淚還是不斷從她的眼中流出，我上前想幫她擦去面上的淚水，但我接觸不到她的皮膚，我的手從另外一邊穿出來，從我離開我的軀殼的那一剎那，我已經失去觸摸親人的權利。我哭了，媽，是孩兒不孝。

與

我坐在她身旁望著她那傷心的面孔，現在的我可以做什麼呢？什麼也不能。我走去看父親，父親沒有改變過他的位置，還是背著我，望向窗外，手放在背後，站起來背已有小小彎，頭髮已變灰白，但還很健康。

當我行近時，我才發覺他的身子是微微震動的，手也握得緊緊，但我最最震驚的是他在流淚。我從沒有見過爸爸哭。

在我小時候，我還記得有一次當我哭著回家給爸爸看見時，他帶我入書房然後關上房門。

他問我為什麼哭。

我說因為陳小明欺負我打我。

他沒有問我為什麼陳小明欺負我。

卻對我說：禮賢望著爸爸，我只見到有一雙很有威嚴的眼望著我，他說男人是不哭的，男人從來都不會因為任何事在別人面前流淚，知道嗎？

我說為什麼不可以。爸爸說因為我們是男人。

在那一次後我再也沒有在爸爸面前流過半滴淚。

當我越是長大所受的壓力便越大，我開始反問自己為何男人不可以哭，哭是一種情感的發洩，為何不可。

那一個男人不哭，只是他還沒有面臨最悲傷的時候罷，我是絕不相信男兒有淚不輕彈這句話，讓這句話長埋地下吧！

我真的再沒有哭，只是在其他人的面前，每當夜闌人靜的時候，我還不是抱著我深愛的毛毛公仔哭。這個秘密我從沒有對別人說，連母親也不說。

但今天我的父親居然因為我而流淚，這更使我的內疚加深。

死

但爸爸,請你相信我,我這樣做已經是最好的決擇,我不想因為我而令到你的名譽受損。雖然你是聽不到我的說話,但也請你讓我告訴你埋在我深底裏的秘密,好嗎?

我的名字叫陳禮賢,今年三十五歲,生活在一個中上家庭。父母皆為人師表,有一姊一兄。兄長是一名工程師,而姊姊是一名律師,至於我也是一名電機工程師。父母不需要我金錢上的支持,而兄姊也是有頭有面的人物,在行內無人不曉陳詩信和陳忠全,他們都已成家立室,至於我,我五官端正,身材健碩,不失為一個人材,更有一份年薪過百萬的職業,我應該有很多女朋友才對,但我一個也沒有,因為我是一名同性戀者,我從來也沒有對任何人說,也沒有任何同性戀朋友更加沒有和任何人發生過性關係。你可能不信,但事實如此,為什麼,因為我不要讓我個人的選擇而令全家承受任何恥辱。

我家中有一塊牌,上面寫上四個大字詩禮全家。這個牌是我的先祖在清朝時考到舉人而得到的,自此我們家便要承受這四個字的無形枷鎖。

到我父親這一代更家發揚光大,他常常對我們說教,做人一定要跟這四個字做,做任何事也不能夠無辱家聲。老爸真的對家聲這個鬼東西看得比他的生命還重要。

記得有一次,電視節目正播放著澳州一年一度的同性戀大遊行,他們穿著誇張的衣服,更有不小是男扮女裝的,他們更不時摸撫著他們的身體。當爸爸看到這些時,便大發雷霆說,這是什麼世界,居然讓這些不男不女的人到處走。應該張他們全部浸豬籠,看他們男不男女不女,見到也要洗眼。他還繼續說男人又豈能和男人一起,這跟本是遺反自然,他們有愛滋病是應該的。

當我聽到這些說話時,我是震驚

的,我想說老爸你的孩子也是他們的一份子,但我沒有說。我將自己守得很密,縱使我是同性戀,我喜歡男人,但我不想做一個不孝子,我張自己鎖在一個密封的籠內,但我怕終有一日這個籠會被沖破的一天,那我真的不知如何去面對我的家人。

我想了不知多小日子,為避免發生這個假設,我決定了決自己的生命。我不要為了自己而令爸爸受到任何傷害,我想我是應該這樣做的,是嗎?

我想還是應該離開這裏,但爸爸的眼淚還沒有停,而媽媽也是。爸爸媽媽請你們不要再為我而哭了,我是不值得你們為我這樣傷心的。請你們想想自己的健康,不要再哭好嗎?你們怎樣做我也是不會回來的了,請讓孩子再自私一次,不要哭好嗎?讓你的孩兒安心離開這個人世吧!

但他們聽到我的請求嗎?我想沒有,他們還是這樣,我再也不忍看了,爸爸媽媽我走了,請你們保重身體。

現在我應該去那裏,我想回家看看,當我想著家一轉身我已到了家。家還是這樣井井有條,真要多謝鐘點工人,為這個家的付出。當我行近魚缸時,魚兒像平時我餵食的時候一樣,游近缸邊。最奇怪的是我能夠明白它們的語言。

它們說你回來探我們嗎?我登大眼睛望著他們。

它們又說你好像不太開心。

這次我說:你看得見我嗎?

蕃茄說:當然,你和以往一樣,只是現在的你比以往好一些。

我說:好在那裏。

藍魔鬼說:可以和我們說話,不好嗎?

我說:當然好。在以往的日子如果不是有你們真的不知日子是怎樣過的。

飄飄說:我們不是嗎?沒有你這

樣的適心照顧我們可以活得這樣開心嗎?

我說:你們開心便好了,但我再也不能照顧你們了。

當我說到這裏我的心是痛的,它們真的是我的好朋友,有多少個失眠的晚上不是只有它們陪著我一起渡過嗎?

藍魔鬼說:不要擔心我們,我們會快快樂樂地活下去的,只要你開心我們便開心的了。

美人蝦說:不要再想什麼了,你現在只有你,你不再需要顧慮任何事任何人,做你自己喜歡做的事吧!

蕃茄說:是,我們會健康地活下去的。說完便四處游動,顯示它那充滿活力的身體。

我說:很多謝你們的鼓勵,多謝你。我要走了。

它們沒有再說什麼,只是很愉快地展示它們的泳姿。

我坐坐沙發上,望著漆黑的天,腦海中什麼也沒有,只是享受這份寧靜的感覺。

天空開始由漆黑轉為深藍,再由深藍轉為淺藍,天開始白了。

我想也是我離開這個世界的時候了。家再見了,魚兒們再見了,爸爸媽媽再見,最後再讓我為你兩老祝福,希望你們身體健康。

再見吧!這個無情的世界。

龍子





Cambodia

To their elders' shock, lots of young Cambodians are having lots of sex, a new survey revealed. The Cambodian AIDS Social Research Project found that one-third of young women are sexually active and 87 percent of young men are having sex — with girlfriends, prostitutes or, in the case of 10 percent of the men, with other males. One hundred percent of the women and 50 percent of the men had never used a condom, the survey found.

Spain

Sitges, is a popular holiday resort for Gay men from around the world. The Catalan region of Spain, in general, is progressive on Lesbian and Gay issues. Its capital Barcelona has a vibrant political and social Lesbian and Gay scene. This summer, Gay men were stopped and "controlled" by police at the beach and maritime boulevard. Over 250 names were collected and the information filed. The Coordinadora Gai-Lesbiana, who met with the town mayor told them that "some citizens had protested to the town hall against male prostitution". At the end of August, controls at the beach were stopped and the next day, the files were destroyed. As a result of this, the governor Ignasi Deo resigned.

Philippines

The Catholic Church, dangerously out of step with present day thinking, has accepted a proposal by 400 volunteer workers to set up a special ministry for homosexuals. The report according to the *South China Morning Post* will attempt to get Gay people to 'change their ways'. One active pro-life campaigner who is also national director of the church programme to reduce HIV infection said that 6 out of 10 cases of AIDS involved homosexuals. But local Gay activist Jay Espinosa of the Katlo group said "the mere fact that they want a special ministry to convince Gays to change, shows they have closed minds."

Portugal

At least two Gay men were attacked last month in front of the most recent Gay nightclub in Lisbon. The Gay men were stabbed several times by a group of at least 15 young men and were hospitalised due to serious wounds. Their state is considered life-threatening. When police arrived at the scene the attackers had already fled. Neo-nazi involvement is suspected both cases.

Saudi Arabia

Twenty-four Filipino workers are reported to have been sentenced to 200 lashes each, following their arrest for homosexual behaviour, and to have received the first 50 lashes of their sentence on 30 September 1996. The other lashes said Amnesty International will be given over three sessions, following which the Filipinos will be deported. The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs said that "the Saudi Arabian authorities arrested them for homosexual behaviour." There is concern that the Filipinos may have been punished for homosexual behaviour in violation of their internationally guaranteed rights to privacy and the norm of non-discrimination. If so, and if they are in detention, the organisation would consider them to be prisoners of conscience.

UK

Twenty Gay activists from OutRage! and the Lesbian Avengers were violently ejected by security staff on Sunday, 20 October after storming the stage of the Royal Albert Hall during a performance of "Aida", being staged by the government sponsored Romanian National Opera with the support of Romania's Ministry of Culture and the nation's London embassy. The protesters sounded foghorns, shouted slogans and unfurled a banner: "Romania! Stop persecuting Queers!" They were protesting against legislation currently before the Romanian parliament that threatens to maintain prison sentences of between one and five years for private consensual homosexual acts. The protesters were forcibly ejected by members of the cast in full costume and Royal Albert hall security staff. Six protesters were injured.

You don't need to be alone

你並不孤獨



Call a friend ... 找你的朋友 . . .

2513 0513 and share our care and support

來分享我們的關注與支持，不用躊躇，即電25130513

我們會聆聽你的擔憂和解答你的疑問，而且所有在愛滋病熱線內傾談的內容絕對保密，包括閣下的身份。同樣，我們可以安排閣下做抗體測試，使閣下明白自己的HIV情況，如閣下是愛滋病帶菌／病患者更可參加我們的支持小組，使用我們的活動中心，還可收到Positive Link newsletter及PWA指南一書，我們會陪伴著你，去醫院或到住所探望你，假如閣下有需要申請援助金，我們可以為你申請。

你是絕對有權利享受美好人生，愛滋基金會永遠在你左右相陪，現在便致電我們的愛滋病熱線。

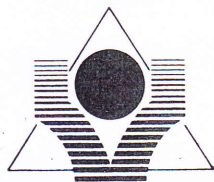
Your worries and questions are discreetly and anonymously answered on our AIDS Helpline.

In the same way, we can arrange an antibody test to determine your HIV status.

If you are living with HIV/AIDS you can join our support group and use our Day Centre as well as receive our *Positive Link* newsletter and *PWA Guide Book*. We also offer help and advice when and if you decide to apply for a PWA support grant.

AIDS Foundation is on your side. Let us be there for you whether at home or in hospital.

You have the right to lead a better life. Call today.



香港愛滋病基金會

HONG KONG

AIDS FOUNDATION

Scene Around

香港

Free! As from this issue of Contacts Magazine all personal adverts will be posted free of charge to our web page. All you need do is pay for a personal advert in Contacts Magazine and we will place it free of charge on the Internet, making sure you reach as many people as possible with our low priced adverts.

Advertising works—make it work for you! Yet again Island Publishing Company leads the way with another first. We are now accepting display adverts from companies that really want to get ahead by letting the international Gay community know where they are and services they can offer. We know our rates are extremely reasonable so please call Tony Ng today on 2817 9447.

Conference A Chinese Lesbian & Gay Conference will be held in Hong Kong 6-7 December, 1996. Individuals and representatives of Chinese Gay groups, activists, artists, publishers, from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macao, Southeast Asia, Japan, USA, Canada, & Europe are expected to attend the conference. Topics will cover Toilet Phenomenon, S&M, Gay Economics and the Chinese Gay Movement. There will also be, say the organisers, a Chinese Gay Publication Exhibition, 10 November to 10 December, 1996, at Tin Yuen Book Shop in Mongkok, Kowloon.

World AIDS Day events. Candlelit Vigil Sunday 1st December 7.30 p.m. Chater Road, Central. Mass in the time of AIDS Sunday 8th December 6.30 p.m. St John's Cathedral, garden Road, Central.

Roller Balding Sunday afternoon, and there's nothing to do. Now that the weather has cooled down, one of the coolest places to get some fresh air is on Bowen Road. You'll bump into lots of your Gay friends there, and even more so if you leave the walking shoes at home, and bring a pair of roller-blades. Bowen Road runs perfectly level from the bottom of Magazine Gap Road to the Adventist Hospital on Stubbs Road, and is wide enough for cars but cannot be used by them. The views and greenery are at least as inspiring as the walk around the Peak, but only about 10% as crowded. Gay walkers, runners, and bladers have now discovered a new time and place to relax and have a great time. Bring your blades, and have a blast!

Freemen. Are you the outdoor type? If you like hiking then why not join the Freemen on Sunday 1st December? they are meeting at 10.00 am outside the South China Morning Post Book Shop before moving off for a days easy walking finishing up with a BBQ. If on the other hand you prefer camping (the kind with tents and things) then maybe you should get your name down for the overnight camp on the 14 & 15th December. For the indoor types there is another chance to take part in a fun-filled afternoon of volleyball badminton or table tennis on the 24th November. Events are for Gay men only. Call 90560693 for further details.

Fetish Fashion. There are always new things to see and feel at this exciting – and Hong Kong's only – specialist shop. This month they have a simply wonderful line in feather masks and boas.

Love in Hong Kong. Pat Lee who while based in Hong Kong for two years wrote Gay plays, some of which were performed at the Fringe Club, is now living in San Francisco. It seems that almost as soon as his feet touched the ground again he was busy rewriting his play, Hong Kong Memories received acclaimed in the USA, but was panned by critics in Hong Kong.

QUOTES ON OLE?

What they said...

"I'd like to have children. Although sometimes I think another great thing about being gay is that I haven't got them. Sometimes I'll go to a friend's house, and they've got these 8-year-olds screaming all over the place, and I think, 'Thank God I'm gay.'"

Neil Tennant of the Pet Shop Boys

"The more gays are out, the more they become known and accepted as friends, family and co-workers. The more they are accepted, the more they can come out. This cycle of 'outness' is at the root of changed attitudes and policy."

Columnist Ellen Goodman

"The word 'lover' is always more than non-gay people really want to know."

Shelly Roberts

"We are at a cross-roads in the history of the epidemic. We are beginning to see glimmers of hope. Not hope that the solution is going to come tomorrow, but the sense that the tools are within our grasp."

Martin Shechter, co-chair of the XI International Conference on AIDS, Canada

"Join ACT UP ... for days of rage at the International AIDS Conference. ... all is not well. The standard of care for millions of people around the world is aspirin. ACT UP will target drug prices and government policies that have created medical apartheid for people with AIDS ... at the 'don't worry, be happy' International Vancouver AIDS Conference. Nail the drug companies, trash their booths, disrupt their parties, steal their stupid gifts, and mug their representatives. The pharmlabs disgusting drug pricing practices deny treatment to two-thirds of the world's population of PWAs. You know we're coming. They Earn. We Urn. ... Close the lid on stupid, senseless HIV immigration bans [by] Iran, Iraq, Russia, and the US.

From a press release issued jointly by several ACT UP chapters

The Munich Oktoberfest has 160 years of tradition. It takes place in the last two weeks of September and ends on the first Sunday of October. On the first day there is the "Entry Parade of the Festival Publicans". Each of the seven breweries have their beer-wagons drawn by six or eight dray horses, beautifully decorated, and accompanied by Bavarian marching bands.

The "Trachtenumzug" is a parade of some 60 groups mostly playing traditional music of different ethnic groups of Europe and wearing their ethnic clothing.. But there are also see flag-swayers from Bologna and pipes-and-drums bands from Edinburgh in kilts (quite sexy, some of them!), and groups from other countries.

The really big thing happens in the afternoon: Gay Day in one of the beer tents: The Braeu Rosl. From noon Gay men gather at the end of this beer tent which has a capacity of some 15,000 people. The leather men who bought tickets go upstairs onto the balcony, while others like to stay downstairs. It gets really crowded after 3 o'clock and stays like that until very late. This year there were an estimated 10,000 Gays there.

Many men come from Bavaria, Austria, Switzerland, or Southern Tirolia (Italy) wearing their "Tracht" (ethnic clothing), which are embroidered leather trousers, short ones which end at the middle of the thigh, or long ones, which are tied below the knees. Both types have embroidered leather braces. The leather is taken from wild ram because it is much softer and more comfortable than pig's or cow's leather.

This outfit is a very important part of the tradition, and since it

The beers by brave women carry four mugs in

In spite of the masses of people, waitresses manage to serve most people in a short time. One litre of beer, including tip, costs around 11 DM (\$HK55).

During the Gay afternoon and evening in the Braeu Rosl people drink litres of beer and have a wonderful party:

You can kiss anybody (well, nearly anybody) you like, people sing and dance on benches and tables along with the music played by Bavarian brass bands on stage in the middle of the tent.

The whole tent sings along when the band plays the Gay-favourite love song "Er gehoert zu mir" (he belongs to me). Even straight men howl along and don't seem to care about the Gay context too much.

There is a lot of flirting going on and since the inhibitions are low or have vanished all together, people go for it right at the table. there were stories of someone giving a guy a blow job while he was standing on a beer table. But these extremes are probably exceptions.

It is so easy to meet complete strangers, it is as if you were friends with everybody. This is probably the best thing about the Oktoberfest. But on the other hand, it doesn't mean too much, if you exchange telephone numbers. When sober and in an every-day environment it can be a bit awkward to see someone again whom you met while drunk in a beer tent.

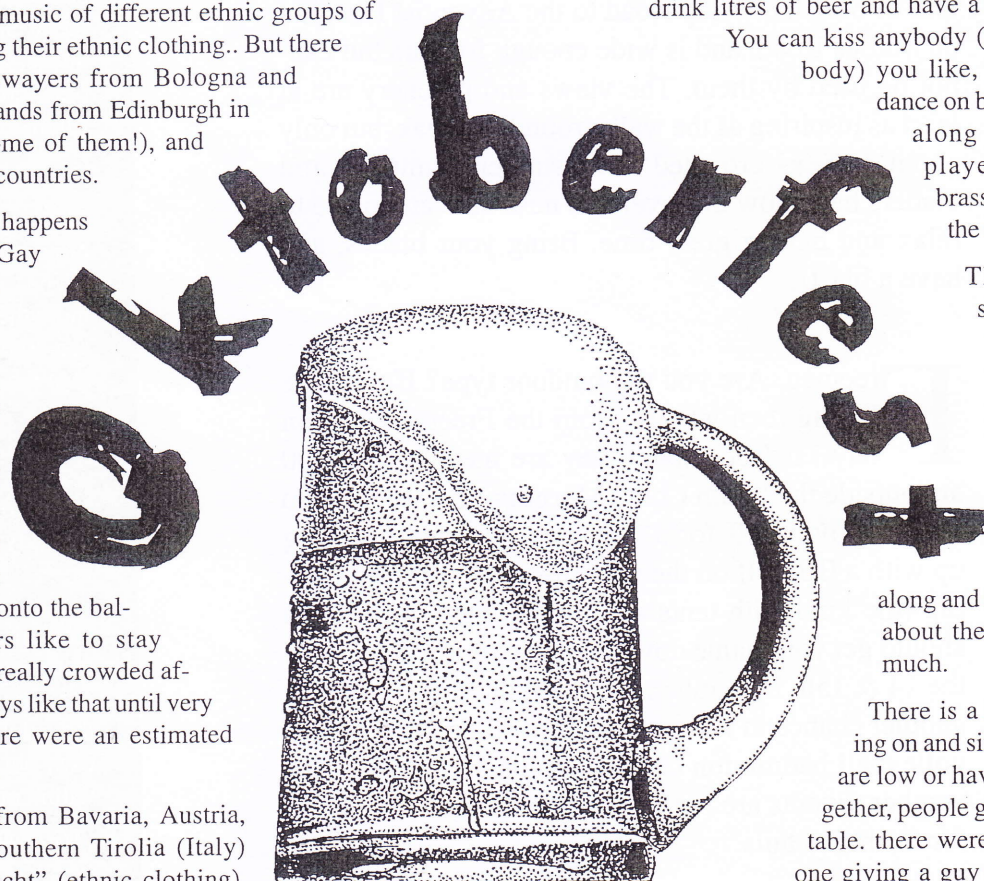
The last day of the festival in the tent of the "Fischer Vroni" is a Gay meeting with over 15,000 men, eating drinking, singing, and dancing on the table and benches. It's a wonderful time for thinking about all the lovely men you have seen over the festival and start dreaming about next year.

This outfit is a very important part of the tradition, and since it looks really sexy, many guys wear it.

ally sexy, wear it. In years the tra-outfit has favour again guys.

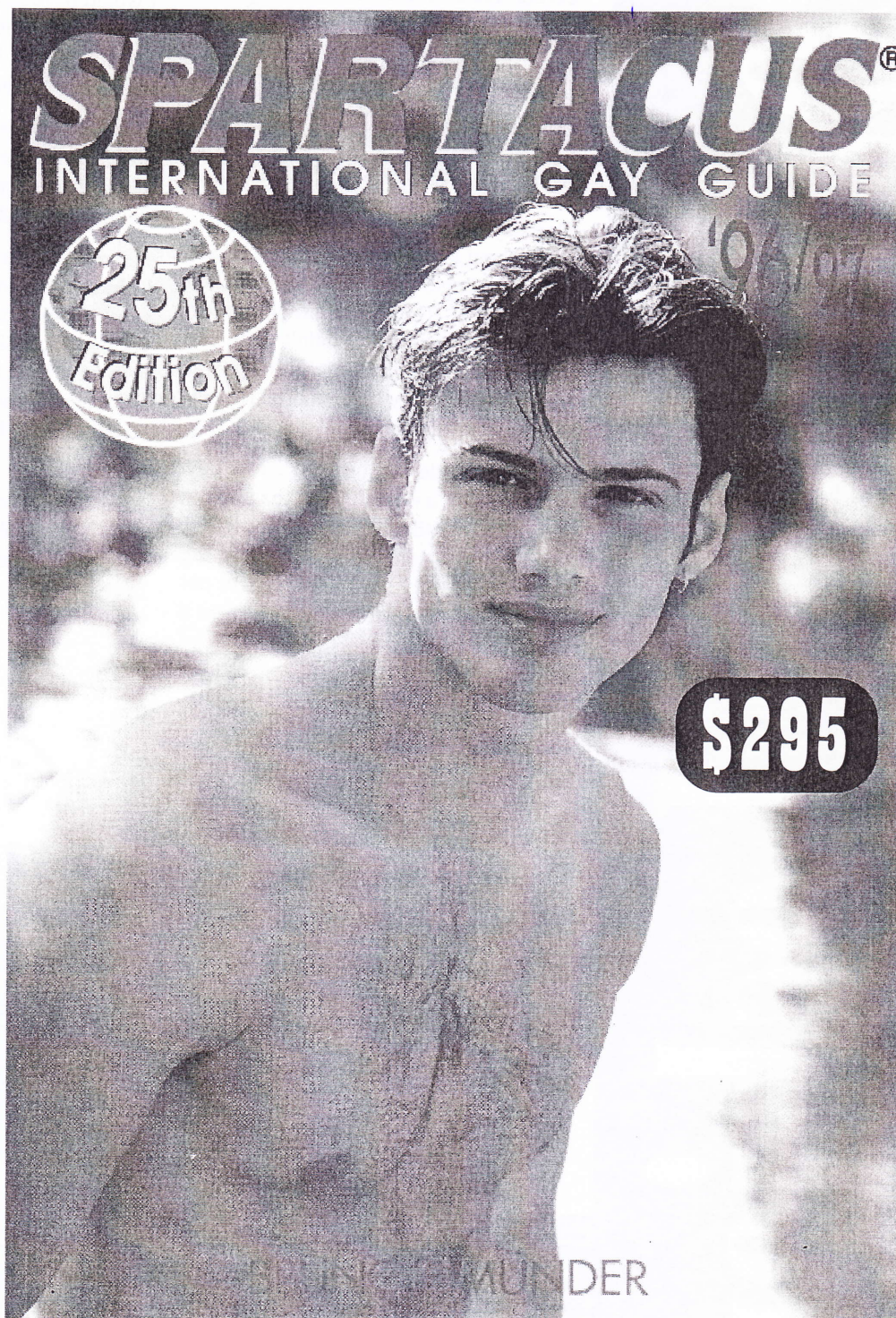
are served and strong who can or five beer each hand.

You can kiss anybody (well, nearly anybody) you like.



by Wolfgang Mueller

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Becoming a Lesbian

by Elizabeth Khax

A woman who is considering an alternative relationship asked me how one becomes a lesbian. I told her that it's impossible to switch to a lesbian identity and lifestyle overnight, but that she could do what I did...

One day when I was thirty I started to think about a few things. I realised that I could no longer pretend to worship men as demigods. They were simply human beings, and ones that I didn't even like very much. So fortunately, marriage was out, and with it any other oppressive heterosexual relationship.

You may decide like me to go and lie on a woman's bed, a woman you like a lot. You feign sleep until she puts out the lights, not wanting to disturb you. Then in the dark you bravely say: Actually I'm not that sleepy, and by the way, I like you a lot...

If you're lucky she'll put on the light and you will fall into each other's eyes...and that will be the start of a learning process of how to become a lesbian.

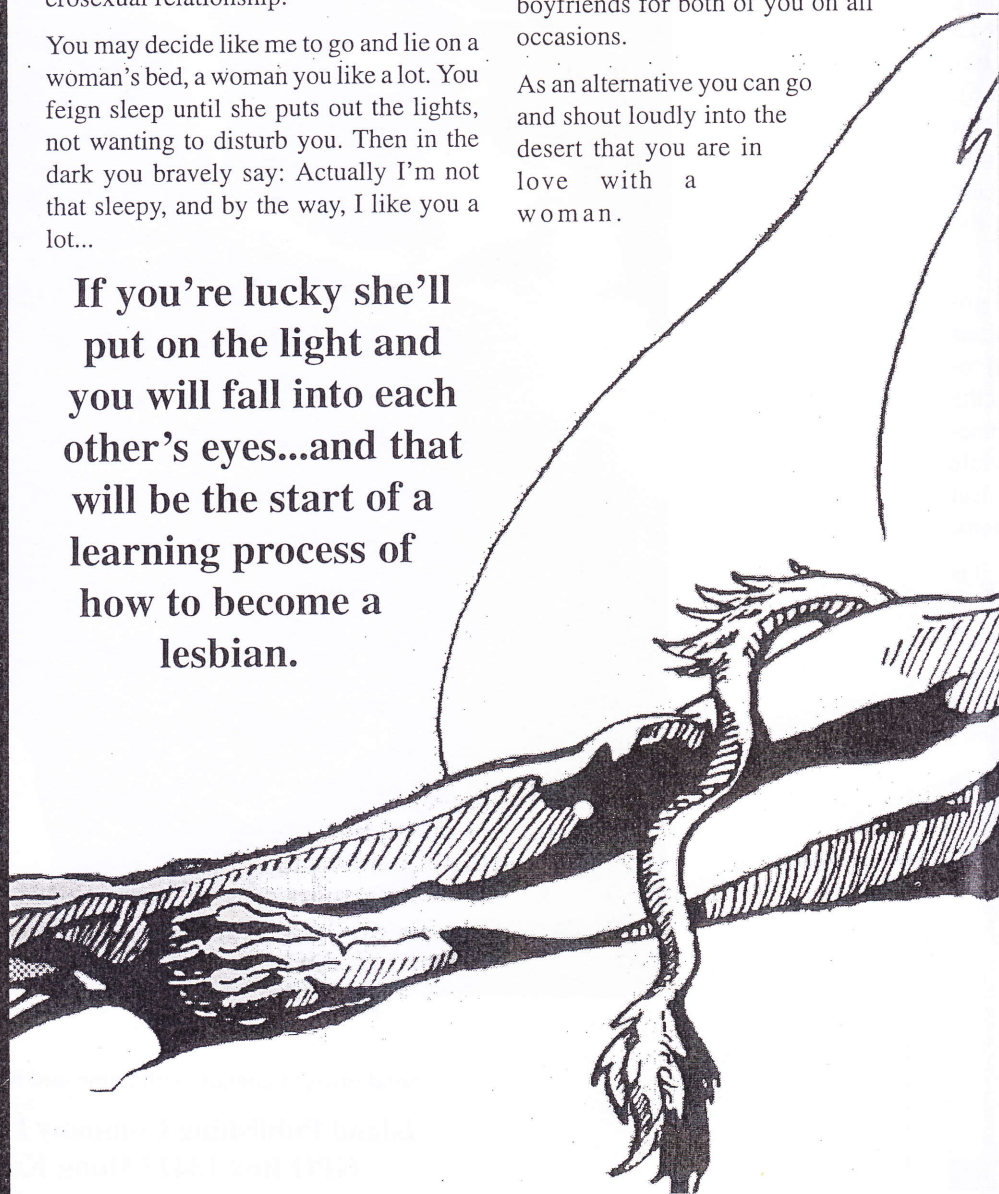
If you are a novice like I was, the big question in your mind will be: how does a woman make love to another woman? Let me assure you that this is the last question you have to worry about, because women's bodies know each other.

Up to this point everything was wonderful, I was in love and was loved. But then the next big question came up: must the world know about it? If it had been a man, I would have introduced him to my family and raved about him to my friends. They would all have secretly hoped that this would be the one to marry me.

To make things even more difficult, I didn't know one single other lesbian with whom I could talk about my happiness (things are much better now).

Perhaps you find a partner who wants to keep the relationship a secret. But this would be unfortunate, as I do not believe your relationship can thrive in the darkness of a closet, while your families and friends keep lining up potential boyfriends for both of you on all occasions.

As an alternative you can go and shout loudly into the desert that you are in love with a woman.



You can hold hands openly there and even make love on the sand dunes (mind the heat)!

You mother might come to visit and will be wondering what you are doing so late in the other woman's room. You can tell her that you are playing chess or that she is teaching you to sew. Or you might decide to write your mother a little note saying, "Mamma, I live this woman, I will never love a man again."

If you do this you have just shattered your mother's dream of seeing her daughter safely married.

Telling her that you are campaigning for lesbian marriage rights will not help. So you must be prepared for an answer like this: "As long as I live I will not approve of this relationship." If the people who love you best cannot accept you as a lesbian, what about the outside world?

At this stage a pastor of the local church might call you in for counselling. You can always be too busy to

find the time, like I was, or you can try to convince him that King David in the Bible was also a homosexual (II Samuel I:26). You can expect to act paranoid in public, this is quite normal in the beginning. For example, I avoided looking my lover into her eyes for fear someone might read our love there.

When people stared at us she said, "Let them, they've never had the chance to behold such a revolutionary relationship before."

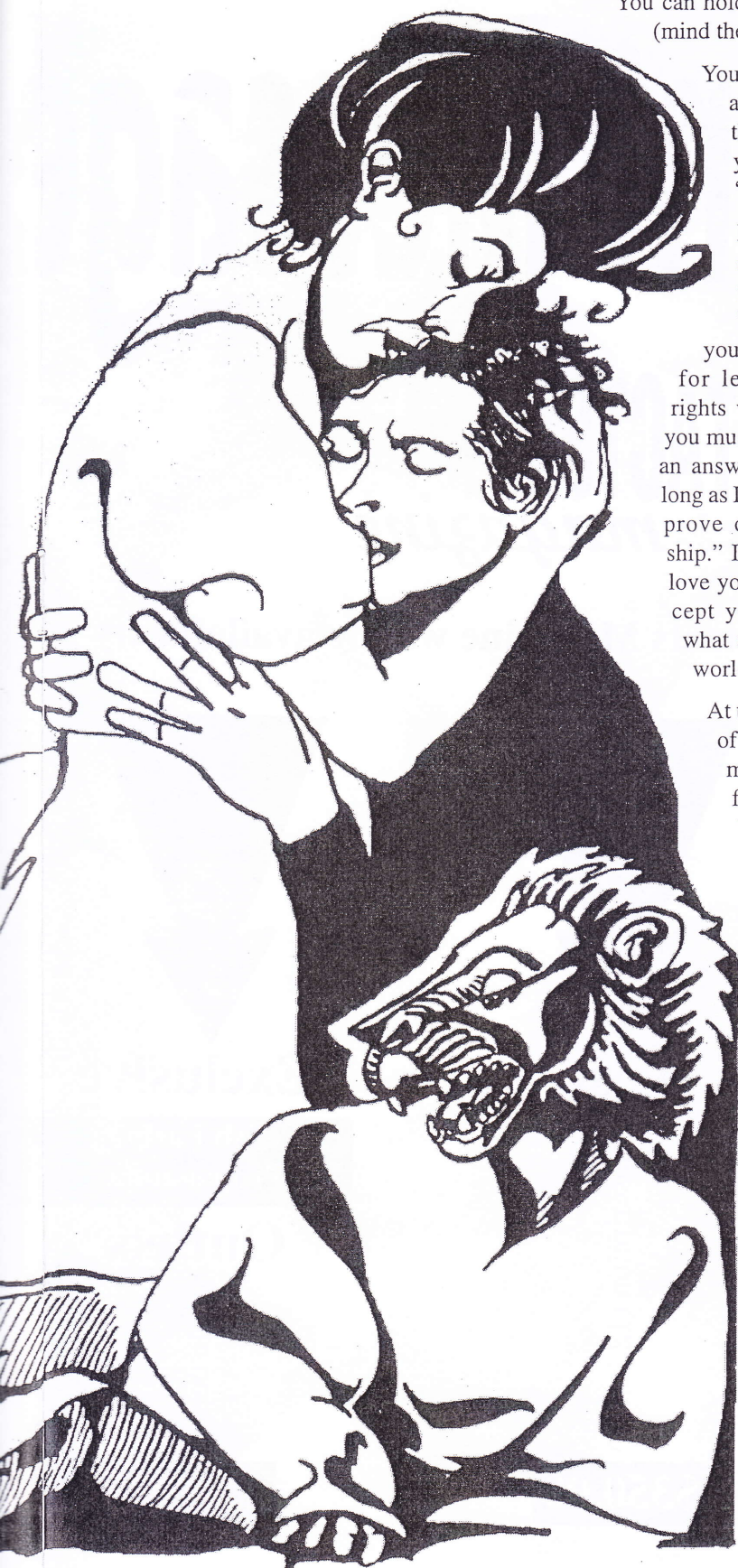
You might also have some misunderstandings about what to call each other. Early in the relationship I called her darling. She froze and then laughed, saying it sounded like a Hollywood movie. It took me a long time before I could laugh about that incident.

Now I call her "my woman." Her sister says it sounds just like a possessive heterosexual relationship. For me "my woman" means "I love you, you are special" and all the other emotions I don't find words for in the English language. After all, I am not calling her "my wife."

You may ask why am I still a lesbian after this? As a woman you journey through the world and if you are very lucky you will create your niche, the special place where you belong wholly. It takes courage, but for me it is deeply satisfying to be a lesbian, to love another woman.

8 point Elizabeth Khaxas is a Namibian poet and activist, who lives with her son and her partner in Windhoek. This article is reprinted with permission from Sister Namibia.

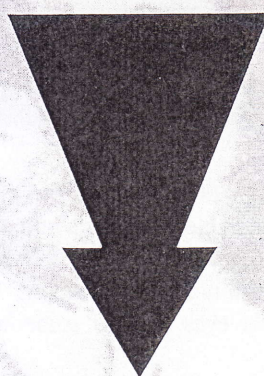
Perhaps you find a partner who wants to keep the relationship a secret. But this would be unfortunate, as I do not believe your relationship can thrive in the darkness of a closet.



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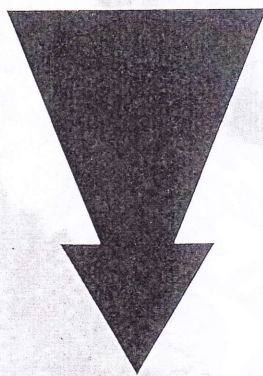
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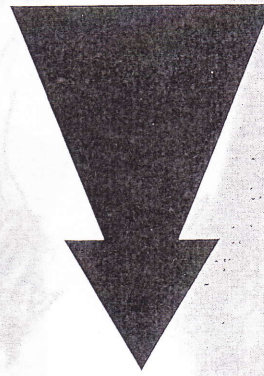
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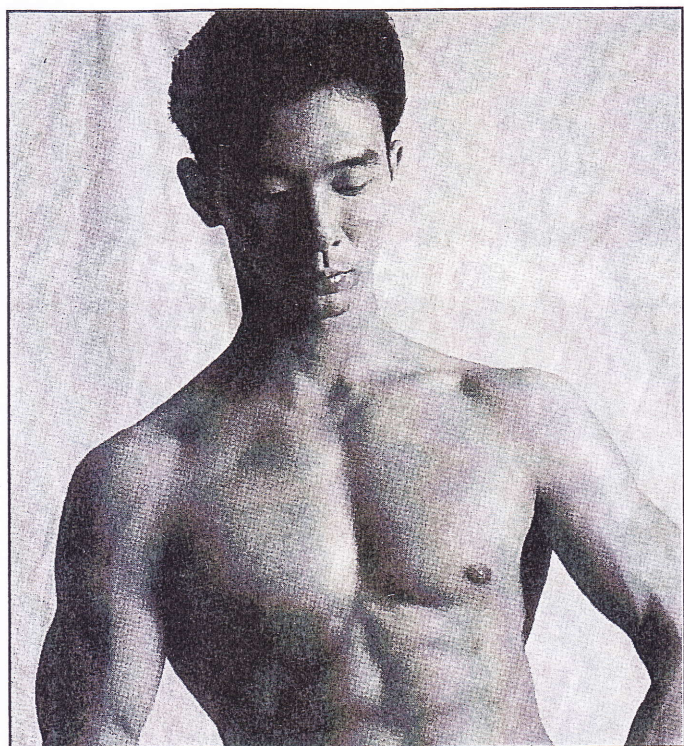
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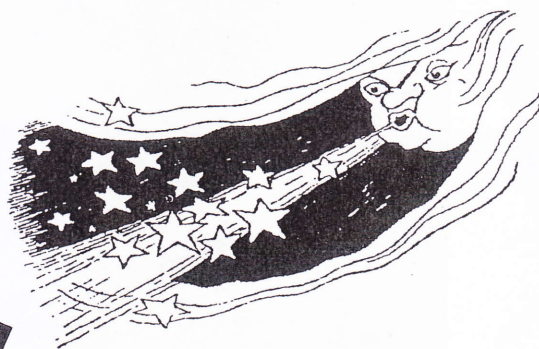
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BENEATH THE WIND



I stood beneath the wind today. Under a canopy of colourful dreams, beneath a sky painted by so many hopes and wishes for a better world. The wind whispered around me, and its voice was so sweet. It spoke to me in a primal language, one not learned, nor heard, but only felt. Feeling, so many feelings live in the wind, it is the spirit of the world.

Under the canopy of colourful dreams, live countless promises unbroken, pristine, untouched by reality. With a crystalline loss they fall to the ground, as the wind shakes the sea of the sky, where they shatter, scattering across the man touched earth. And the earth groans as the weight of its burdens seek to crush it, but it raises its back, and sighs in relief, exhaling its pent up breath, that it has survived another broken heart.

I lay beneath the immortal crafted roof of the world, and I gaze up at my ambitions as they crystallise, in a night covered with a blanket of oblivion. The goddess opens her one eye, and gazes down at an orb of half-life, and she too sighs, in restless disappointment. Beneath the dome of the night I see creation unfolding, stretching down paths that can be heard, across fields that can be felt, and into possibilities that are unmeasured.

The wind blows, chilling my face, reminding me of my mortality, yet in the gentle way of a reprimanding parent. It does not shake me from my dreams, leaving me to

master my own reality, before it is demolished by the reality of so many others. Turning in my mind, I can see the path that the wind takes, and I know that is a one that is sorrowful in its loneliness. To wander forever the secrets of time, of possibility, in the depths of the heart laments, in the shallows of human love, the wind carves out tunnels of refuge from personal pain. I feel, but the wind is feeling. Intensity upon intensity, forming into a crystalline lattice of stored potential. A tomb for

the mighty, the wind guards as well as it frees.

I walked beneath the wind today, and I looked around at a world that is changing. If I stand still, and hold my breath, if I close my eyes, and wish upon the dreams that I hold underneath my eyelids, then perhaps creation will forget that I live, and leave me to true freedom. ■



Out On the Net

by Spode

Spode@sqzm14.ust.hk

'Usenet' Newsgroups

If you missed last month's article on Mailing Lists you might want to take the time to read it on the Web at <http://sqzm14.ust.hk/out-on-the-net/>, where all my columns are available.

Like mailing lists, a Newsgroup (often called 'Usenet Newsgroup') is a collection of messages between a group of people interested in a particular topic. But unlike mailing lists, these messages do NOT arrive in your e-mailbox; they sit on a central server where you can go and read them. Most, if not all, of the Internet Service Providers in Hong Kong provide one of these news servers for their subscribers.

The most common way to access these newsgroups is with a software program called 'tin'. If you type 'tin' (without the quotation marks) at your ISP's system prompt you will probably find yourself deep into the 'Usenet' in no time. An increasingly popular alternative it to use the News component of the Netscape browser. Other people use programs designed just for handling newsgroups, which download part or all of the messages in the groups they are interested in - this can reduce the time you spend online, and thus your monthly Internet access bill.

While you can do a keyword search in 'tin' by typing a slash "/" followed by the word you are looking for, a more comprehensive source is the huge searchable database newsgroups at [http://](http://www.liszt.com/cgi-bin/news.cgi)

www.liszt.com/cgi-bin/news.cgi.

Newsgroups are organised into a number of basic groupings. The major ones are ALT (a HUGE array of groups on 'ALternative' topics), COMPuters, MISCellaneous, NEWS (which contains news about newsgroups, not about world events), RECreation, SCIENCE, SOCIETY, and TALK. But there are also a growing number of newsgroups based in Hong Kong, such as HK.POLITICS and HK.TALK.SEX. If you are interested in reading world and local news stories, see if your ISP carries the Clarinet newsgroups - they all start with CLARI and your ISP has to pay some money to subscribe to them.

However, not all of the over 16,000 newsgroups are carried on all the servers. Some may have been censored by your ISP, as is commonly the case with most of the newsgroups that carry erotic pictures. Some providers also censor all newsgroups with the word 'sex' in the title (alt.sex.homosexual, for example, is not available on the HKUST server). Some sites even censor any newsgroups with words like 'gay', 'lesbian', 'queer', or 'homosexual'! Some of the oldest gay-oriented newsgroups use the term 'motss', which stands for 'Members Of The Same Sex'.

Give it a try, it's lots of fun! And unlike mailing lists, your e-mailbox does not explode if you go away for a few days.

PRISCILLA MISSES THE BUS



The drag performers are hurriedly sewing on sequins; the DJ is joyfully unwrapping new CDs and the organisers are secretly stocking up on Valium. From the "it had to happen" file is a drag queen tour heading out across the upper, dryer regions of this nation. Known as the "Not the Priscilla Tour", this drag show will be setting out in early November, reports *Brother Sister* cutting a glamorous path through the top end of Australia. "This tour is not just about having a good night out," said organiser David Wells.

"More importantly," he added, "it is about community development and bringing people together and providing a safe and secure venue by which people who do not normally feel comfortable about going out, can go out". The organisers in each of the towns they visit are putting together gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender "mini-expose" that will precede the drag performance.

Steve Lambert, another spokesperson for the touring group said, "The idea is that as many community groups, organisations, and businesses who work with the Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community will display their services and wares".

Unfortunately, the idea of taking a big bus has not caught on. Organisers did not get enough takers to make the big bus idea viable, but they are hoping that six drag queens hitting any town will be enough to cause a bit of a stir.

"I wish President Clinton were more direct, more hands-on [about AIDS]. He's been given a chance to turn the world around and be outspoken on an issue that's controversial to still so many people, but it would take enormous daring. I had hoped that he would. I really thought he had the chutzpah and the cojones."
Elizabeth Taylor to *The Advocate*. (Cojones is Spanish for balls.)

Australia Carers of people living with HIV/AIDS have been promised a A\$2.5 million boost from the state government. The State Health Minister Rob Knowles announced a four-year programme aimed at boosting standards for carers.

The A\$2.5 million dollar promise was part of a larger A\$100 million package for all types of carers, including those who care for the elderly, the mentally ill and physically disabled.

The package was initially promised during the March elections and has finally come about after over half a year of negotiations with various health organisations. The government claims that the package was influenced research into carers' needs not by any imposed prescription.

Victorian Premier Jeff Kennett hopes that the package will also increase the profile of carers in the local community, a task that he believes is often thankless and overlooked by a majority of the public. The package includes new strategies for carers of people living with HIV/AIDS in both the metropolitan and regional areas.

France The number of full-blown AIDS cases in France decreased in the first half of 1996, leading officials to expect a continuing annual decline. The health ministry reported late October that 2,507 new AIDS cases were reported between January and June, which would amount to 5,014 cases for the year if the trend continues. Last year, 5,469 cases were reported, down from 5,789 in 1994.

New Zealand A new treatment for HIV, HRG-214, must undergo further trials and will not be available for up to five years.

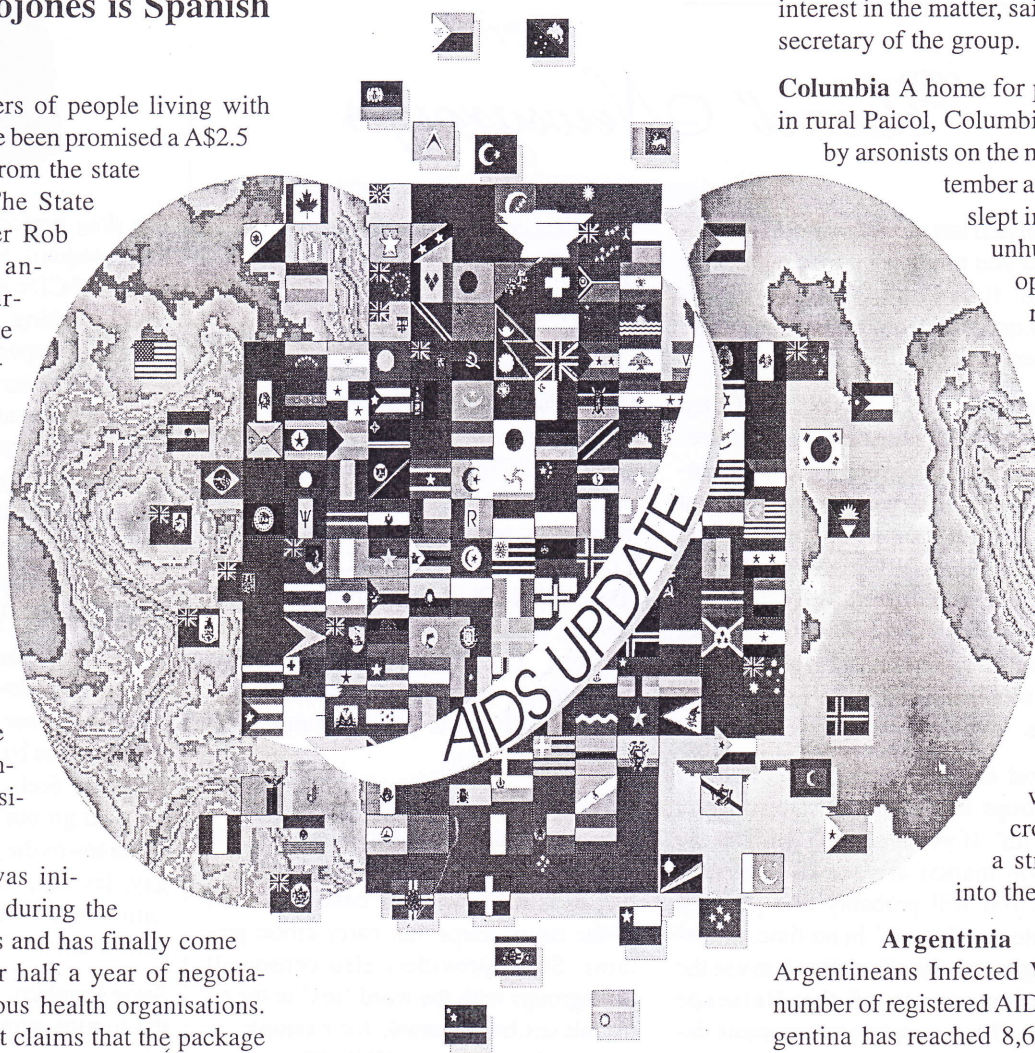
Dr. Wayne Watkins, the Cervida chief executive and currently working on the project, reportedly said that American Tony Fauci and Australian David Cooper, who had urged for a cautious response to HRG-214, have shown an element of professional jealousy. Dr. Watkins was reported in the New Zealand Herald as saying "we don't need their approval because we have the clinical data and we have the results."

Croatia The office of Croatia's INFO AIDS organisation was recently stoned by neighbours in Zagreb, the capital city. The rocks destroyed windows, a computer monitor, a printer and some furnishings. A day later, the backyard flower garden was burned. Police have expressed little interest in the matter, said Amir Hanusic, secretary of the group.

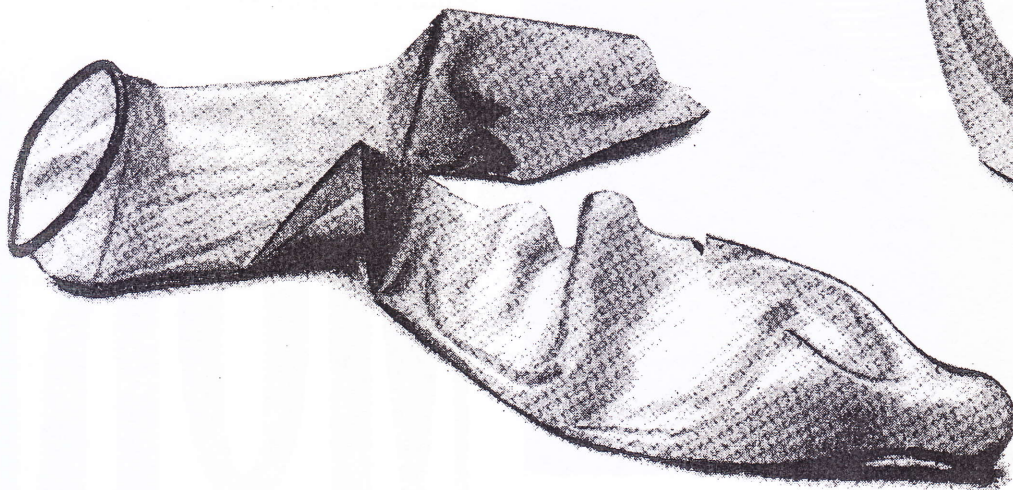
Columbia A home for people with HIV in rural Paicol, Columbia was set on fire by arsonists on the night of 25th September as a father and son slept inside. They were unhurt. The house is operated by a Roman Catholic group that provides shelter to poor people with HIV in Columbia. The community had threatened to force the residents out for months, fearing that people with HIV could contaminate the water supply and crops by bathing in a stream that flows into the town.

Argentina Nearly 9,000 Argentines Infected With AIDS The number of registered AIDS patients in Argentina has reached 8,678, and an estimated 11,500 others are infected with HIV, the National Program to Combat AIDS reported. The province of Buenos Aires has the most AIDS cases, with 3,340. Most young patients contracted the virus through intravenous injection, while most older people were infected through homosexual contact. In general, 47 percent of the cases were transmitted sexually, 44 percent through blood, and 6 percent from mother to foetus.

The Auckland based pharmaceutical company Cervida Corporation describes the new treatment as the first immunologically-based AIDS treatment to have passed stage two trials. The new treatment is currently awaiting approval from the American Federal Drug Agency for stage three clinical trials in the United States.



Oil and condoms don't mix.



Baby oil, olive oil, butter, even Vaseline. If it contains oil, keep it away from condoms. It can ruin them.

So if you're using oil to give each

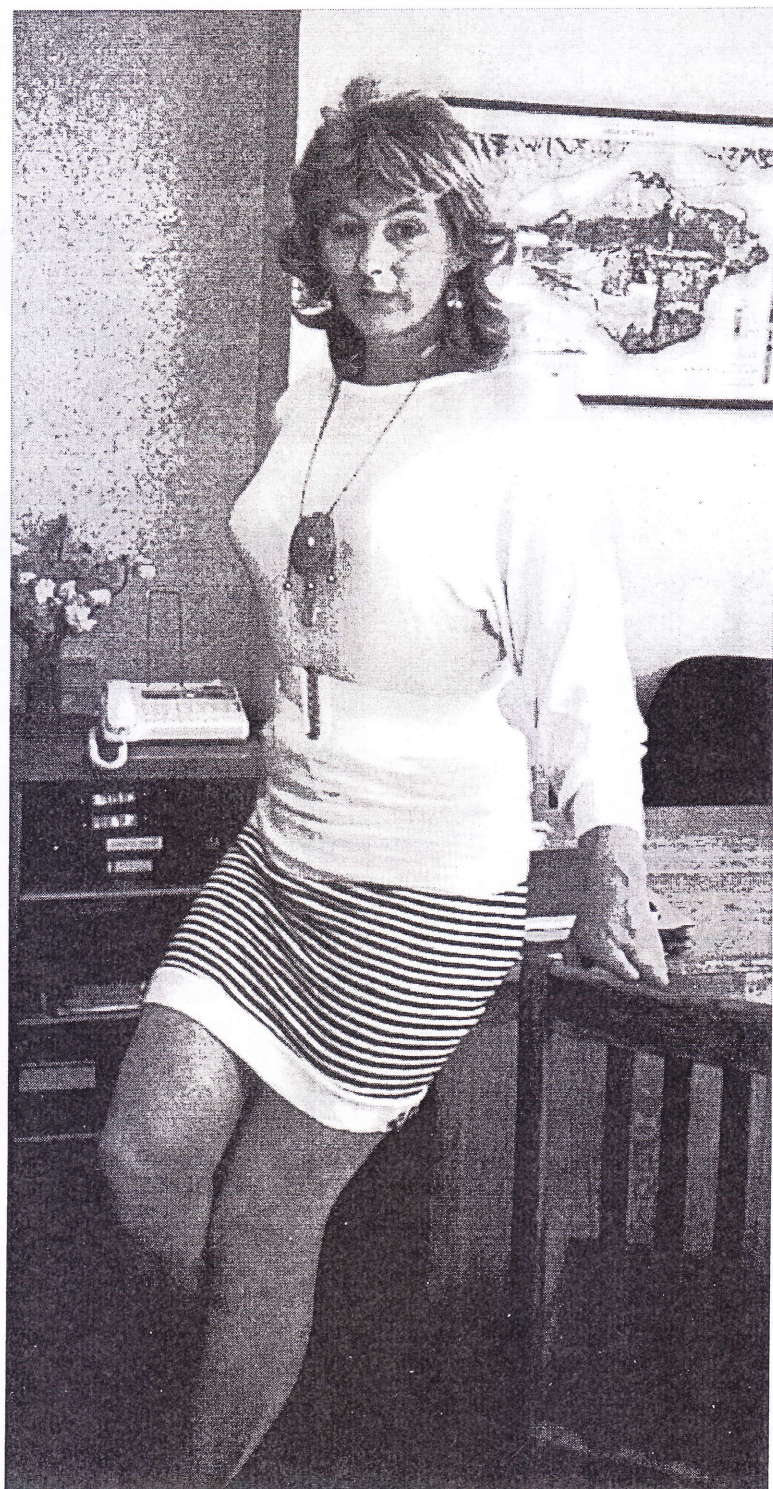
other a massage, have a towel or tissue handy to wipe your hands.

And don't use anything as a lubricant that might contain oil. Such a moisturiser like Nivea, or a hand

cream. Even soap and shampoo have oil in them.

The only safe lubricant is a water-based one. KY is an example.

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Photos and Story by Phaedra Kelly

women want to swap sex than men

Before laws can be changed to equalise the rights of transsexuals, the public has to be asked whether or not it will accept it? Why!? Understand this, it is not we, an endangered and vastly abused HUMAN minority who need to win over 'the public' (of which, WE happen to be a part too). It is very much the other way around; that a so-called modern 'civilised' society needs to prove that it is democratic, humane and human in the first place, putting an end to a wicked holocaust which has gone unchecked for nearly 2000 years.

If my Chinese male-to-female sisters were prostitutes, the shame certainly would not be theirs, for it was not for the want of trying for alternatives that they took up such a life.

The majority of Transsexuals would not wish to have any intercourse at all, until they are reassigned to the gender which they feel themselves to be, because to them, male or female the partner engaged in sex with them would cause them much confusion, and they are not either abstract male-lesbians, or homosexual men in dresses, they are Transsexuals for whom, post operative a relationship with man becomes an heterosexual if non-procreative act.

MORE

This does not in any sense detract from the case for equality of our gay brothers and sisters, and there are also some lesbian m-to-f Transsexuals, and gay Transvestites or Transgenderists, but articles on chromosomes, genes, hormones are all amusing studies but, the fact stands that individual human dualism of gender-identity in spirit, mind and body is a proven fact. Over 4,000 years of religious philosophy world-wide, 100 years of psychology and the medical and physical sciences have qualified it as a real fact for all mammalian life on the planet. Obviously, each person differs from the next and must learn frequency level, but a majority are apparently free to choose to ignore it in themselves totally, and deny it to others.

Such persons are like to a biped trying to insist to the world that they are an amputee, a denied limb will not conveniently vanish but it will play tricks on the ignorant owner.

For our varied minority there are also many differing levels and frequencies of duality, creating many more designations in our world community than science has yet caught up with.

But most are male-to-female precisely because all foetus begin as female and some though appearing male, prove to need to 'go back to basics' to borrow on a conservative governments battle cry.

So Hong Kong society is to blame, for pressuring Chinese women who might otherwise elect to be new female-to-male Transvestites, (even hetero ones if allowed a social outlet) into having the very much more difficult phalloplasti or female-to-male surgery? And guilty again of suppressing our male to female sisters?

If my Chinese male-to-female sisters were prostitutes, the shame certainly would not be theirs, for it was not for the want of trying for alternatives that they took up such a life.

As a working world-wide Transgender human rights network, IGTA can reliably inform that exactly that was government and state policy in the old Communist Eastern Europe. Russia and even Beijing, have since learnt better of it, China legislated for Transsexuals in 95, and Moscow allows a Transsexual to change ALL their papers BEFORE they have surgery.

Both, used the ridiculous and corrupt old English example of failed law as a benchmark for what

Not to do.

For all their problems China and eastern Europe now treat their Transgendered in a comparatively civilised manner, and avoid the social and legal construction of a Transgender vice ghetto.

Britain, under pressure from the Transsexual organisation Press For Change, and from European Courts, is not now far from following suit. Hong Kong now lags behind Singapore

where Transsexual marriage was apparently legalised in early 96.

The factual reason for our existence is our humanity itself, we are those who are forced more than others to live with, face and change with our personal dualism, and that is all. Others with more free choice make our lives a misery for it, why? Is it envy that we have the courage and strength to accept and grow from what is real?

If it is fear that we will take over

your world forget it, most of us even in an equal society would not wish our struggle on an enemy, and they say that the meek shall inherit, - few could be more meek than us yet when we see what the present caretaker does to the inheritance, we want only to contest the will!

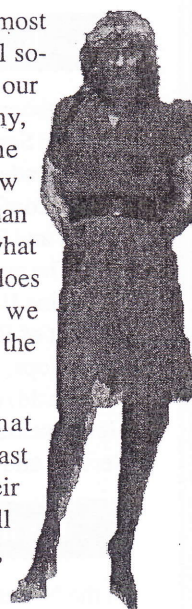
Another fact is, that world governments last year were told by their OWN scientists as well as independent ones, that additives and chemicals in food, air and water were polluting the human gene pool, and causing more and more 'birth defects', inclusive of an increase in sex changing tendency and imbalanced duality's.

Nobody was ever 100 percent one or the other, or yet 50/50%, but you all have some part of what WE call the complementary gender within your chemistry, mind and soul. More of you, are tipping toward being us than ever before and really, we don't want you, when in your society we can barely reach and help those true Trans-people that we have!

But, sooner than later, if your own governments don't listen to their own scientists and do something, you are going to have to come to us and beg to know how to live with changes. It would be a good

idea then, to be kind to us now, rather than wait until the high heel is on the other foot.

I was en mission three weeks in Hong Kong this year and due to your repressive society, was unable to find Hong Kong Chinese sisters and brothers, only Thai, Filipino and one Chinese TS. But we do have helpful data for them please write to IGTA, 1, Bank Buildings School Green Road, Freshwater Isle of Wight, UK. There is also an Asian TS Club in Japan their address is FtM Nippon Adachu, Adachi-Nishi Post Office, Tokyo 123, Japan.



Teachers Go Back To School

On October 26 in Union City, California (outside San Francisco), over 500 educators attended United In Diversity: West Coast Conference on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Issues in Education. The event featured a keynote speech by Elaine Eastin, the California Superintendent of Public Instruction and over 50 workshops, including: Why Schools Need to Address Homophobia and Heterosexism-Preparing a Teacher In-Service and The Rights of Gay Teachers.

It's a Mad, Mad World

In the November issue of *Mad* magazine, the famous back-page fold-in features a group of protesters standing before the Congress holding a sign that says "Stop Merger Mania" and asks the question "What Proposed Merger is the Federal Government Moving Quickly to Block?" The answer, once the page is folded together so that "A" meets "B," reads, "SAME SEX MARRIAGE." The folded image is of two men being married before a priest with a supportive crowd looking on. The fold-in clearly supports same-gender marriage and is a satire of how, in the face of many real issues, the Congress has created the so-called Defence of Marriage Act (DOMA) to ban gay marriage.

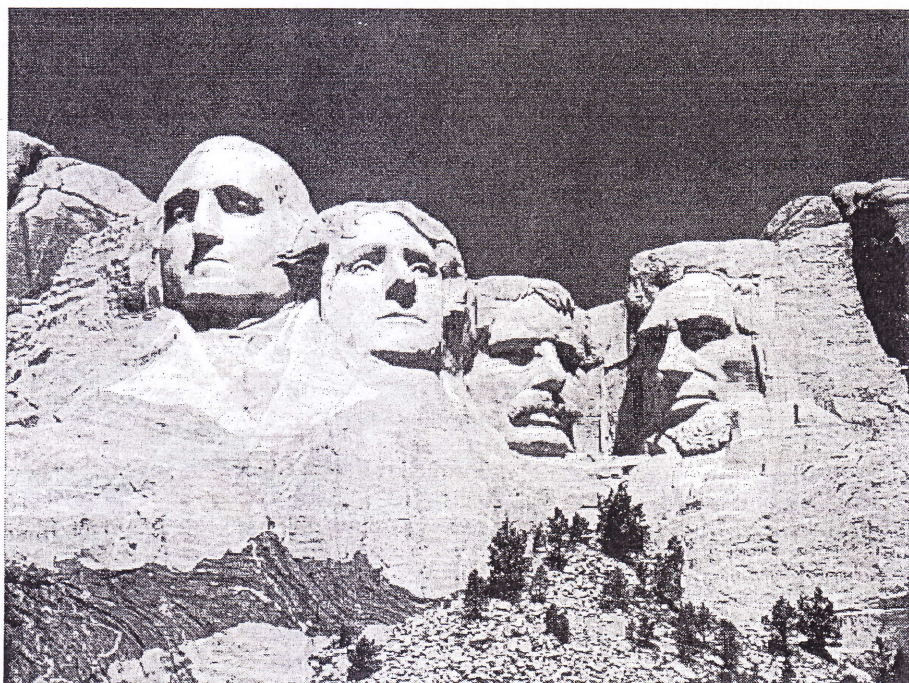
Books

In September, Project 21 donated nearly 200 gay-positive young adult books to area school districts in Kansas City, Missouri. *The Kansas City Star* contained an excellent article by columnist Barbara Shelly entitled "Warning: Books Can Spark Ideas," which shelves the controversy over these books with the censorship of such classic works as *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Diary of Anne Frank* and *The Invisible Man*. "To challenge a book is to compliment the author," she wrote. "It shows the writer is raising issues, presenting ideas and giving voice to the conflicts that rage inside human beings. The day will come, perhaps when [the donated books] are as acceptable as *Alice in Wonderland*."

The Doctor is Out On

October 7, CBS's highly acclaimed hospital drama *Chicago Hope* explored the budding friendship between two doctors in a frank, open and comical way. In a

USA TODAY



previous episode Dr. Alan Shutt's (Adam Arkin) found himself in an uncomfortable situation when Robert, a new male colleague, makes a pass at Alan mistakenly believing that he was gay. In the next episode, the two grow to be good friends as they work on a research project together. They discuss each of their respective failed marriages, their problems with relationships, and about some of Alan's problems dealing with Robert's sexual orientation. Their exchanges are often as comical as they are fraught with a sense of commonality.

"The Test of the Times"

The two new HIV home tests, being advertised on both radio and television, are gradually appearing in Washington, D.C., stores. The Confide test, offered by Johnson and Johnson, will be in 90 percent of U.S. drugstores, and at Wall-

Marts, Kmart and supermarkets within a month.

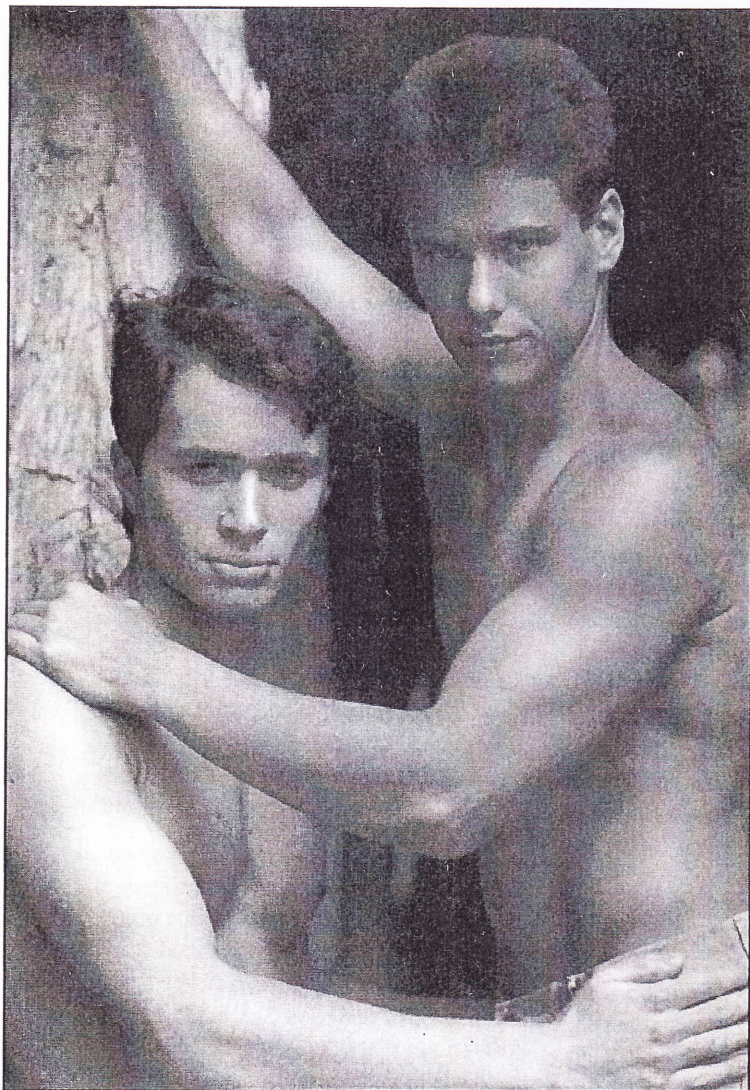
The Home Access test kit is being distributed to drugstore chains like Rite Aid and Eckerd Drug. While retailers at some area stores report that consumers are asking about the kits, other stores have seen only spotty sales.

However, to make it easier for embarrassed consumers to buy the Confide test, a "silent request form" is available at stores, to be handed to the pharmacist rather than the test itself.

The tests won approval from the Food and Drug Administration after a long battle, in which activists were enlisted by the companies to support the idea of home testing.

Thanks to GLAADAlert the weekly activation tool of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

intimate friends



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OLDEST IN THE WORLD

By Fei Wang

Although ancient China produced the world's most extensive homosexual literature, in modern China, homosexuality has been considered abnormal and evil. Attitudes towards homosexuality started to change, becoming more tolerant, after China adopted an open-door policy in 1980s. These and other developments were discussed recently on the *Voice Of America* (VOA).

It's hard to estimate the size of China's homosexual population because most of them keep their sexual orientation a secret. But some experts estimate that they account for at least one per cent of China's total population. Li Jianquan, a Chinese Gay activist who is now living in the United States, recalls his experience as a Gay man in China.

"I first realised that I was a Gay when I was only thirteen or fourteen years old. I found myself more interested in playing with boys than girls. Boys were more appealing to me, but Chinese society has a strong prejudice against homosexuals. Most people in China believe that homosexuality is unethical and evil."

Li Jianquan is lucky because he worked

in Beijing's Friendship hotel, where most foreign experts and teachers, or tourists stay. He met a visiting American professor, who helped him to go to the United States. Now they are living together in New York City without fear of constant harassment. Most Gays in China are not so lucky. Some were sent to jail on "hooliganism" charges.

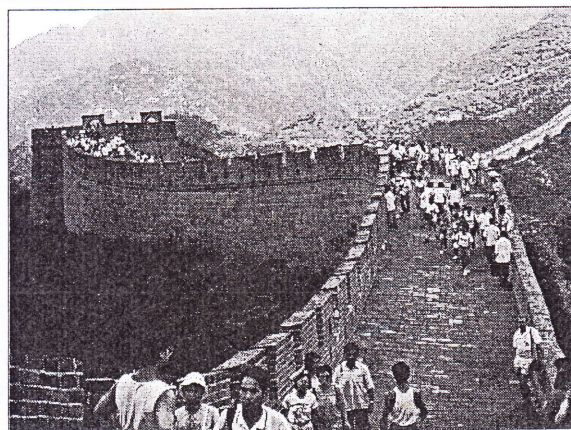
Police occasionally rounded Gays up and fined them or detained them for several days. Ruan Fang fu is a professor of sex studies at the institute of advanced study of human sexual activity in San Francisco and author of the book *Sex in China*. He pointed out that homosexuality was very common in ancient China. Attitudes changed dramatically after the communists took over China in 1949.

"There was no pressure on homosexuals in ancient China. The most typical example is the Han dynasty. China was ruled by ten openly homosexual emperors. The names of the emperors and their acknowledged favourites were recorded in the official histories. In modern China, however, homosexuality is

looked down upon, partly because of the intrusion of western culture into Chinese society from the 19th century on. Then the communists took over China and homosexuality was considered a western evil. Homosexuals are under heavy social pressures in China. Shame still keeps most Gays in the closet."

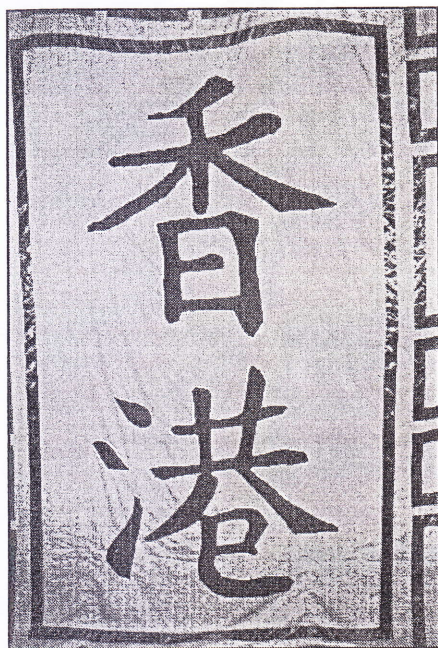
But as China has opened to the world, the government has become more tolerant of homosexuality. Beijing's Dongdan park has become the most famous gathering place for Gays. Another place is the five-star Kunlun hotel's discotheque. On cer-

(Continued to page 27)



QUILT

Facts



Photos by Contacts Magazine

by Leonard Hirsch

Funds Raised	:	US \$1,704,187
Number of Visitors	:	5,931,807
Number of Panels	:	33,443
Number of Football Fields	:	20 with walkways
Number of Acres	:	22 with walkways
Total Weight	:	44 tons
Volunteer Hours (1995)	:	544,880

Countries Contributing Panes:

39, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Japan, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Ireland, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Spain, Surinam, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States (all 50 states and Puerto Rico), Zambia.

Names Your May Recognize:

Peter Allen, Arthur Ashe, Michael Bennett, Kimberly Bergalis, Mel Boozer, Arthur Bressan, Jr., Michael Callen, Tina Chow, Roy Cohn, Brad Davis, Perry Ellis, Wayland Flowers, Halston, Keith Haring, Rock Hudson, James Kirkwood, Liberace, Robert Mapplethorpe, Sgt Leonard Matlovich, Congressman Stewart McKinney, Freddie Mercury, Rudolf Nuryev, Anthony Perkins, Robert Reed, Marlon Riggs, Max Robinson, Vito Russo, Jerry Smith, Willi Smith, Sylvester, Dr. Tom Waddell, Ryan White, Ricky Wilson, Pedro Zamora.

Materials Used:

100-year old quilt, afghans, Barbie dolls, bubble wrap, burlap, buttons, car keys, carpet, champagne glasses, condoms, corduroy, corsets, cowboy boots, cremation ashes, credit cards, curtains, dresses, feather boas, first-place ribbons, fishnet hose, flags, fur, gloves, hats, human hair, jeans, jewelry, jockstraps, lace, lame, leather, Legos, love letters, Mardi Gras masks, merit badges, mink, motorcycle jackets, needlepoint, paintings, pearls, photographs, pins, plastic, quartz crystals, racing silks, records, rhinestones, sequins, shirts, silk flowers, studs, stuffed animals, suede, taffeta, tennis shoes, vinyl, wedding rings.

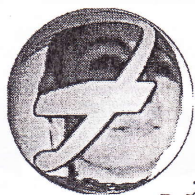


When the 45,000-panel Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt went to Washington in the middle of October, its panels, crafted in memory of some 70,000 people who have died of AIDS, an estimated 1.2 million people visited it.

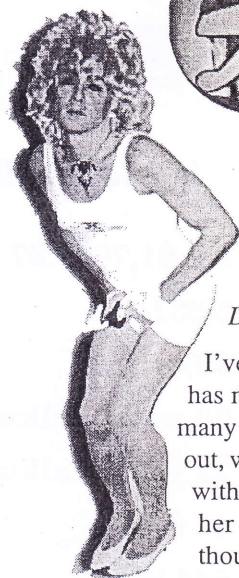
In the quilting tradition, the pieces made by family and friends are sewn together to create a mosaic of love and endurance. This fifth presentation of the Quilt in its entirety demonstrates the strength that brings people together in times of adversity.

In an afternoon program, a panel featuring Cleve Jones and Michael Smith, co-founders of the Names Project; Steven Newsome, director of the Anacostia Museum; and Edith Mayo, curator of political history, National Museum of American History, discussed the history of the Names Project Quilt; its role in our understanding of the AIDS pandemic; its relevance to quilt art; and its value in bringing together the public and private individuals.

Leonard Hirsch, liaison officer in the Smithsonian Office of International Relations, is the coordinator/moderator.



Mademoiselle Fifi du M1-sommet



Dear Fifi,

I've always enjoyed a nice party, and so has my mom. She can put away at least as many San Miguels as I can. Before I came out, we used to party together all the time with my straight friends who enjoyed her company quite a bit. But even though I've told her I'm Gay, she still wants to come and party with me and my Gay friends. The problem is that without the standard Armani threads, she wouldn't fit in, and this would be quite an embarrassment to me. How can I politely tell her not to keep asking me to bring her on my social events?

Mother and Son

Dear Son,

Aren't you the lucky one! Most boys in this town spend lifetimes concealing their comings and goings for an entirely different reason! Hats off to you!

Take her to Gameboys - even if looks like Johnson Wong, she'll get so bored there you'll never have to worry again.



Dear Fifi,

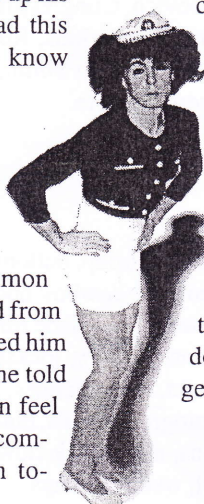
I enjoyed your letter from David who lost his dildo up his poop shoot. I've also had this problem, so it's nice to know that I'm not alone.

Don't give up the ship!

Loser

Dear Loser,

Apparently it's quite a common problem. The last trick I had suffered from this same dildo fixation. When I asked him to pull it out so I could insert mine, he told me that without it, he wouldn't even feel mine! As you can imagine, I was completely flabbergasted. We've been together for almost 15 years now.



Dear Fifi,

I have been starving myself for the past six months so that I can fit into this wonderful new dress I purchased just for my brother's wedding. Last week he told me that I must wear a tuxedo. I'm very depressed because no one will be able to appreciate the "new me." Do you think it would be appropriate for me to catch the bride's bouquet anyway?

Anna Rexia

Dear Anna,

It's people like you that make me want to change the name of this column to "Dodo's Drag Bag." I've seen some lovely two piece jacket and matching skirt ensembles that look exactly like a tuxedo. In fact, I think it was just last month at the Pedder Street Escada - they're probably on sale by now.

As far as catching the flowers are concerned, it is heterosexual protocol for only the maidens to partake in this ceremony. So, unless your backside is as tight as mine, you better leave this to the fifteen year olds.

Good news for the softies in town-I read an article in one of the daily newspapers last week that they've discovered a new cure for impotence. The chemical substance will also used in the fuel that powers super-sonic rockets. Apparently both China and the US are claiming to have made the discovery first. One country was focusing on space ships, the other obviously on vastly more important issues.

Many of my readers ask me about the authenticity of the letters I receive. I'm not surprised at their doubt as sometimes they're so cockamamie that I don't believe it myself. But please rest assured that all the queries I receive are in fact bona fide. Somehow I get the feeling that for every one letter we receive, there are ten or twenty sexually inadequate perverts out there who either don't know how a typewriter works or don't have any fingers.

Until next time, keep the condoms coming. and if you have any more scintillating questions, you can reach Fifi at Box 555 Contacts Magazine.

(Continued to page 27)

tain nights, more than a third of the disco's crowd are Gays. Professor Ruan says that situation in China is improving for Gays.

"The Chinese government has changed a lot with regard to this. before the 1990's, China officially denied any homosexuals existed in China. They proclaimed that homosexuality was one of the corrupt and degenerate western social phenomena. Now the Chinese government acknowledges the existence of homosexuality and has even published official numbers of homosexuals in Beijing, Tianjin and other big cities. I think this is a lot of progress. to acknowledge the fact is a big step forward."

Homosexual activist Li agrees that China is changing. He pointed out that in recent years, some homosexual activists in China have begun speaking up. They organised conferences in Beijing to discuss homosexuality-related issues. They also conducted surveys and published flyers promoting aids awareness. A group in Beijing even got help from America's Elizabeth Taylor AIDS foundation, which provided a US\$10,000 grant last year to conduct research on China's Gay population and its health needs. However, these activities have not been conducted without any problem. It was widely reported that a homosexual hotline in Beijing was shut down last year, after the authorities said it encouraged immorality and human rights. And Li says China's homosexuals still need legal protection.

"In China, , homosexuals are still occasionally being harassed because there is no law to protect their rights. I hope China will soon make a law to protect their interests. I sincerely hope a law regarding homosexuals' rights could be worked out as soon as possible."

Homosexual activist Li Jianquan and Professor Ruan Fang fu both pointed out that the Chinese government and society's attitude towards homosexuality is still ambivalent. And they called for more protection of the basic human rights of homosexuals regardless of their sexual orientation.

Thanks to Voice of America.



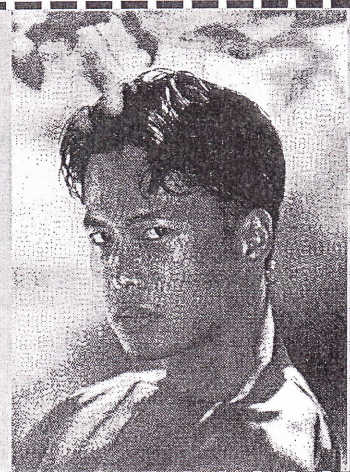
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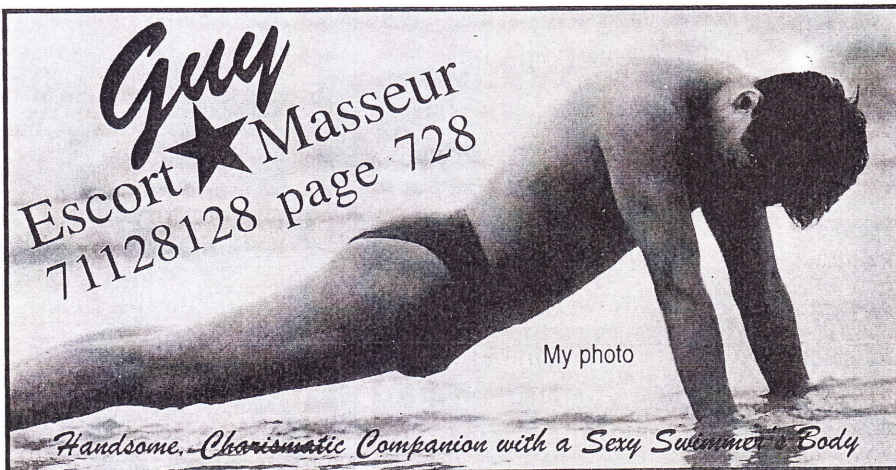
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步驟（二）：每一封信我們收取三個一元的郵票服務費。假若多過一封信，便要給郵票，如此類推，但郵票並不一定要貼在信封上，只要將它放入寄給 Contacts Magazine 的信封內便可，然後將你的姓名及地址寫在一張紙上。

步驟（三）：將你的信、郵票及寫了姓名及地址的字條一起放入一個信封內，然後寄 Contacts Magazine G.P.O. Box 13427 Hong Kong.

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Good-looking, well-built, well-educated, 25 years old. Seek handsome and muscular guy who like to care another part for companion. Photos appreciated. ALA. Box 230

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Chinese, 39 years, moustache. Like men over 40 for friendship. Photo please. Box 232.

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Kind, gentle, shy Englishman, 28, Mandarin speaker, good sense of humour. Seeks similar Chinese man for friendship leading to relationship. Looks not so important. Box 236

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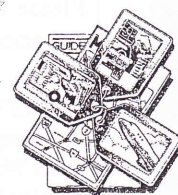
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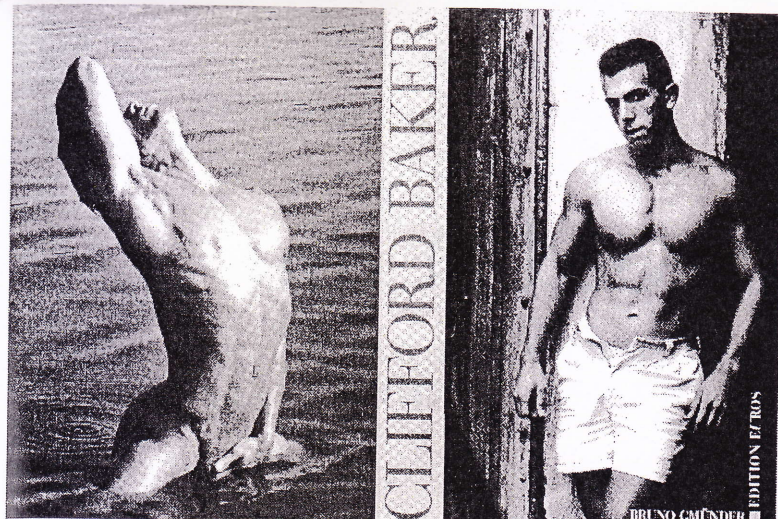
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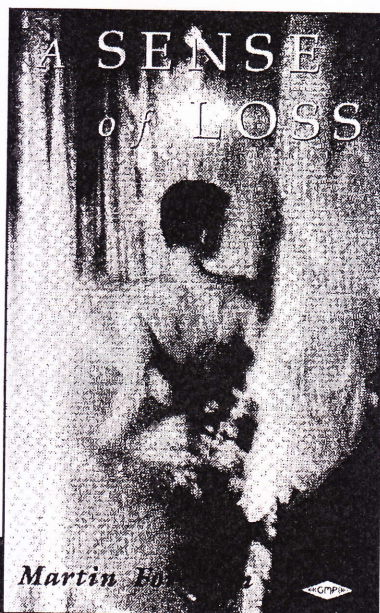
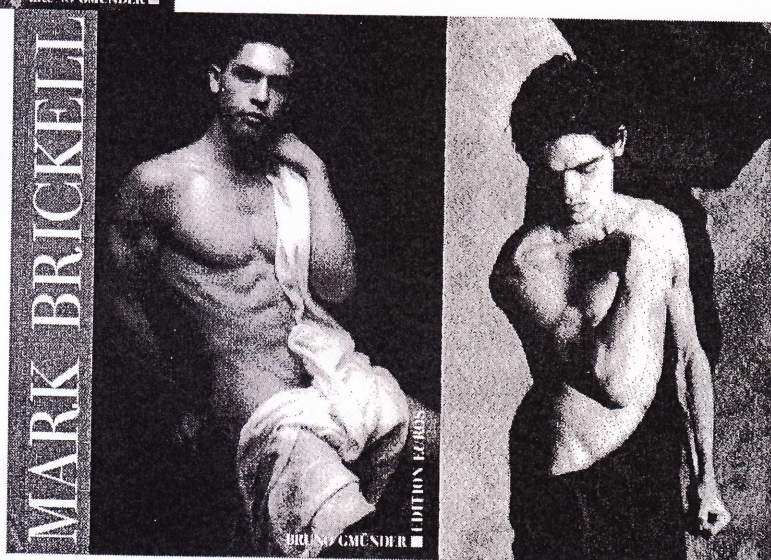
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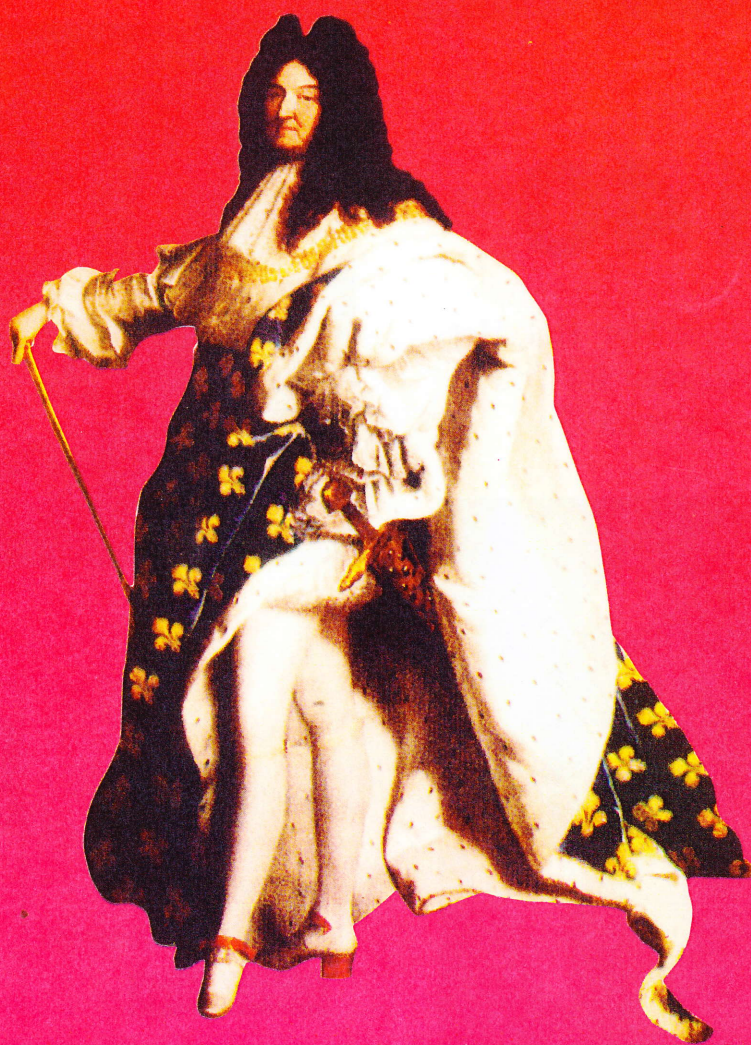
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